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10 December 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members, Imagery Exploitation Subcommittee, COMIREX  
SUBJECT : Proposed Color Evaluation Program

The attached proposal [redacted] from the EXSUBCOM Color Evaluation Working Group is forwarded for review. Your written comments and recommendations would be appreciated by 7 January 1972. EXSUBCOM discussions on this proposal are tentatively scheduled for 18 January 1972.

[redacted]  
Chairman, EXSUBCOM

Attachment: one (1)  
[redacted]

NRO and DIA  
review(s) completed.

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

29 NOV 1971

SUBJECT: Proposed Color Evaluation Program

TO: Chairman Exploitation Subcommittee

1. References:

- a. EXSUBCOM Memo, [redacted] dated 16 September 1971.  
b. EXSUBCOM Memo, [redacted] dated 2 November 1971.

2. Reference a. established a Color Working Group to review and revise the guidelines for evaluating color imagery. Reference b. expanded the scope of the Working Group to include making recommendations concerning the best methods for acquiring a coordinated community evaluation of color imagery. Accordingly, the minutes of the third meeting of this working group and a proposed Color Evaluation Program are forwarded for your approval.

3. The Proposed Color Evaluation Program is based on the following assumptions:

- a. That there is a need for a coordinated assessment of the relative intelligence value of color and black and white imagery, which should be accomplished in a timely manner and be representative of community-wide requirements.
- b. That there is a need for a coordinated statement of collection requirements which will reflect the imagery and data necessary to accomplish such an assessment.
- c. That it would be desirable to release operational exploitation units from formal evaluation responsibilities, but at the same time to reflect their requirements in the color assessment.
- d. That past attempts by the exploitation units to evaluate the value of color photography have been only marginally successful due in part to:

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(1) The lack of a systematic, coordinated approach which would produce the necessary data upon which to make judgments.

(2) The pressure of operational requirements.

(3) The inability to develop a high level of color expertise among image interpreters.

(4) The inaccessibility of the color original to the community.

(5) The lack of coordination between interpreters and analysts regarding the value of color information which has been derived from past collection efforts.

4. It is the judgment of the Color Evaluation Working Group (CEWG) that the evaluation program proposed herein would eliminate these problems and produce meaningful results within the shortest possible time period.

5. If the proposed Color Evaluation Program is approved, it is requested that the EXSUBCOM accomplish the following:

a. Designate additional representatives and consultants for the CEWG.

b. Designate representatives for the PI Evaluation Team.

c. Provide [ ] for each member of the CEWG and PI Team.

d. Provide a facility at [ ] sufficient to accommodate six to eight photo interpreters.

e. Forward the evaluation plan to the appropriate members of the exploitation community not participating directly in the evaluation effort and solicit their assistance as required.

6. It should be emphasized that only highly qualified personnel should be designated for the PI Team. The success of this evaluation program will probably be directly proportional to their competence, flexibility and dedication.

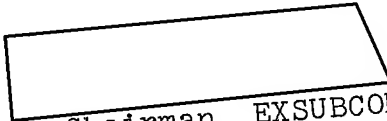
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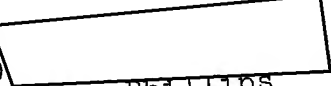
7. A formal briefing can be prepared and presented to the EXSUBCOM if desired to assist in its consideration of this proposal.

1 Enclosure  
Minutes of Third  
CEWG Meeting w/encl

  
Chairman, EXSUBCOM Color  
Evaluation Working Group

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cc:  
CIA (IAS)   
DIA (DI-8)  
Army (SPAD) Mr. Phillips  
Army (ETL) Mr. Anson  
Army (TOPOCOM) Mr. Dossi  
Navy (NRTSC) Mr. Tarrent  
Air Force (INYMA) Capt Watson

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Minutes of Meeting No. 3 of the Exploitation Subcommittee  
(EXSUBCOM) Color Evaluation Working Group

1. Place: NPIC (PPBS Conference Room)
2. Time and Date: 0900 hours, 9 November 1971
3. Members Present:



Mr. Thomas Phillips, USA (SPAD)  
Mr. Howard Tarrant, USN (NRTSC)

4. Alternates/Consultants Present:

Mr. Abraham Anson, USA (ETL)  
Major Stuart W. Mooney, HQ USAF (INYMA)

5. Members Absent:

Capt. Howell N. Watson, Jr., HQ USAF (INYMA)


6. Security Level of Meeting: TS/SI/TK

7. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of Meeting No. 2, held 2 November 1971, were approved with the following amendment:

Para 10(3) strike "He agreed with other members...";  
add "other members agreed...."

8. Announcements:

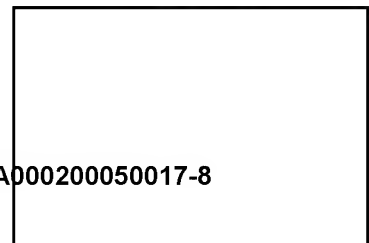
a. The next meeting of the EXSUBCOM Color Evaluation Working Group (CEWG) will be held at 1000 hours, 3 December 1971, in the PPBS Conference Room, NPIC.

b. The scope of the CEWG has been "expanded to include making recommendations concerning the best methods for acquiring a coordinated community evaluation of color imagery and to handle, for the EXSUBCOM, other tasks relating to color." (EXSUBCOM Memo 

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c. Due to [redacted] forthcoming reassignment  
[redacted] has been designated Chairman of  
the working group. (EXSUBCOM Memo [redacted])

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d. [redacted] invited members of the CEWG to the  
next meeting of the ASP Color Committee to be held 15 November  
1971 at the National Academy of Science Building.

9. Old Business: Discussion of the draft proposal  
for a coordinated color evaluation program. A final  
proposal was agreed to by all members of the working  
group. This proposal (enclosed) will be forwarded to  
the EXSUBCOM for its consideration.

10. New Business: None.

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1 Enclosure  
Proposed Color Evaluation  
Program w/encl

[redacted]  
Chairman, EXSUBCOM Color  
Evaluation Working Group

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### COLOR EVALUATION PROGRAM

1. GOAL: A coordinated evaluation of color imagery which will produce meaningful results in the shortest possible time and that can be used to establish the proper role of color imagery in the NRP.
2. CONCEPT: Establish a Planning Group and a PI Team to accomplish, for the EXSUBCOM, an objective determination of the intelligence value of color imagery which is representative of community requirements but accomplished in a manner separate and distinct from operational exploitation requirements.
3. VALUE: It is envisioned that the Planning Group/PI Team approach would accomplish the following:
  - a. Provide a highly centralized and controlled color evaluation program which can produce meaningful results within the shortest possible time period.
  - b. Release the national and service exploitation organizations from all formal evaluation requirements and permit them to exploit color photography on the same basis as other operational systems.
  - c. Provide ICRS with more precise color collection guidance.
  - d. Make better use of materials already collected (airborne/satellite and domestic/operational)

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e. Produce a coordinated statement of requirements for color in the NRP which reflects community needs.

4. PARTICIPANTS: In addition to the direct support by the Planning/Working Group and the PI Team, other members of the community will be able to provide inputs to the evaluation effort which are derived from their operational exploitation of color imagery. A brief description of the composition, proposed tasks, and requirements for the various participants in this effort follows:

a. Color Evaluation Working Group (CEWG)

(1) Composition: The CEWG members/observers would include the following:

(a) One member each from NPIC, CIA/IAS, DIA, Army, Navy, and Air Force.

(b) One member each from TOPOCOM and ETL (representing MC&G-related activities).

(c) One member each from CIA and DIA to represent the analysts of the respective agency.

(d) Various consultants:

1. Color oriented psychologist
2. Photo Scientist
3. Systems Engineer
4. Others as required



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(2) Tasks: The CEWG would be responsible for the following:

(a) Establish a PI Evaluation Team for the objective evaluation of color photography.

(b) Plan, direct, monitor and assess the activities of the PI Team.

(c) Plan, recommend and monitor special evaluation studies as needed. (Enclosure 1 provides examples of special studies which could be conducted).

(d) Prepare and request color collection requirements in support of the evaluation program.

(e) Maintain cognizance of all requests for operational color collection so that requests for collection in support of the evaluation effort can be adjusted accordingly.

(f) Prepare revised EEI's for use in the evaluation effort and in the operational exploitation of color imagery.

(g) Make recommendations for a standardized color vocabulary and guidelines for its use in operational exploitation.

(h) Provide for direct liaison with exploitation units (interpreters/analysts) to determine the significance of the information derived from color imagery by the PI Team.

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(i) Coordinate the EXSUBCOM evaluation program with the NRO Color Task Force as required.

(j) Prepare a summary of the evaluation results and submit to EXSUBCOM with recommendations for use of color in the NRP to satisfy community needs.

(3) Needs:

(a) Designation of additional representatives.

(b)  for each member.

b. P.I. Evaluation Team

(1) Composition: A team coordinator from NPIC and at least one image interpreter from each of the NTP-tasks exploitation units (NPIC, CIA/IAS, DIA, Army/SPAD, Navy/NRTSC, USAF/FTD).

(2) Interpreter qualifications: Experience in at least one substantive specialty and general knowledge of the other NTP responsibilities assigned to the parent organization. To insure the broadest possible range of expertise, the following specialties are recommended:

- (a) NPIC - Geographic
- (b) CIA (IAS) - Basic Industries
- (c) DIA (DI-8) - Ground Forces Facilities
- (d) NRTSC - Naval Weapons Systems
- (e) SPAD - Ground Weapons Systems
- (f) FTD - Missile Systems

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(3) Tasks: The PI Team will accomplish the following:

(a) Prepare an evaluation of color imagery for the CEWG.

(b) Participate in special evaluation studies as needed.

(c) Provide the CEWG with collection requirements to satisfy evaluation needs.

(4) Needs:

(a) Facility for evaluation activities (recommend NPIC be requested to provide space).

(b) General Evaluation Guidelines.

c. National/Command/Military Department Exploitation Organizations

(1) Composition: To insure that the assessments of color imagery and the value judgments regarding the information derived from color imagery are truly representative of the entire exploitation community and not just the six units represented on the PI Team, a means must be established for including the results of operational exploitation of color imagery by the remainder of the community. This includes the national organizations and units of the Military Departments and U&S Commands.

(2) Tasks: These organizations will be asked to:

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(a) Exploit color photography in the same manner as other operational systems with no requirements for a formal evaluation.

(b) Utilize "standardized" color terminology in readouts, where appropriate.

(c) Feed-back examples of significant intelligence derived from color photography, and any observations which may contribute to the evaluation program, to the Color Exploitation Working Group (CEWG).

(d) Forward color collection requirements in support of operational needs to ICRS as normally accomplished with information copies to the EXSUBCOM CEWG.

(3) Needs:

(a) Set of revised EEI's and guidelines for the exploitation of color imagery.

(b) A standardized color vocabulary.

(c) General instructions on use of color terminology in readouts and recommended exploitation techniques.

5. GENERAL EVALUATION GUIDELINES: Following are the general guidelines to be used by the PI Team in performing its evaluations. More specific guidance will be provided by the CEWG as required.

a. Assemble coverage of each target/complex covered on fair-to-excellent color photography since introduction

of SO-242 (including both airborne and satellite coverage).

(1) Compare color original, color duplicate, B&W duplicate and "green" record.

(2) Determine intelligence potential of current state-of-the-art as represented by color original.

(3) Determine intelligence potential of current operational photography as represented by color duplicate.

b. Provide evaluation of future missions, in accordance with paragraph 5.a. above, as color samples become available.

c. Determine the relative exploitation efficiency of color and B&W.

d. Determine the effectiveness of utilizing dual color and B&W imagery for stereoscopic exploitation.

1 Enclosure  
Special Evaluation Studies

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Approved For Release 2004/03/31 : CIA-RDP79B01709A000200050017-8

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